

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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USDOC FOR BEWT

DEPARTMENT PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, BGEN, EEWT, UR
SUBJECT: CRAWFORD ARREST CASE - BUSINESS FACILITA-
TION MEETING

SUMMARY: IN LIGHT OF CRAWFORD ARREST WE BELIEVE
THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO HOLD
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED BUSINESS FACILITATION
MEETING WITH MANZHULO AT THIS TIME. CRAWFORD
CASE WOULD HAVE TO BE MAIN ORDER OF BUSINESS IF
MEETING IS HELD. WE WOULD NOT WISH SOVIETS TO
CONCLUDE THEY CAN DO BUSINESS AS USUAL WITH US
WITH THREAT OF TRIAL HANGING OVER MEMBER OF
AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. UNLESS INSTRUCTED
TO CONTRARY, IF SOVIETS RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH
US, WE WOULD INFORM MANZHULO THAT UNDER PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES - UNLESS SOVIETS WISH TO DISCUSS
CRAWFORD CASE OR RAISE OTHER MATTERS - WE
SUGGEST MEETING BE CANCELLED AND HOPE THAT PROBLEM
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WILL HAVE BEEN RESOLVED PRIOR TO NEXT PROSPECTIVE
MEETING HERE (NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER) THROUGH
DROPPING OF ALL CHARGES AGAINST CRAWFORD. END
SUMMARY.

1. DURING MOST RECENT BUSINESS FACILITATION
MEETING HERE (MOSCOW 9067) DEPUTY MINISTER

MANZHULO SUGGESTED THAT NEXT MEETING BE HELD IN FIRST HALF OF JULY BEFORE SUMMER VACATION SEASON. THIS WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED, BUT NO DATE WAS SET. IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR EMBASSY TO REQUEST MEETING, FOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) TO ASK IN DETAIL FOR OUR PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS, AND FOR MFT TO INFORM US OF DATE OF MEETING ABOUT A DAY IN ADVANCE. HENCE WE HAVE OPTIONS OF (A) TAKING NO ACTION TO REQUEST MEETING; (B) REQUESTING MEETING AND RAISING ARREST OF U.S. CITIZEN F. JAY CRAWFORD; (C) REQUESTING MEETING AND IGNORING CRAWFORD CASE.

2. IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES OF ARREST OF CRAWFORD AND CONTINUED THREAT THAT HE WILL BE USED BY SOVIETS AS PAWN FOR RELEASE OF THE SOVIET PERSONNEL INDICTED ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES IN THE U.S., WE THINK IT WOULD BE AWKWARD TO REQUEST BUSINESS FACILITATION MEETING AT THIS TIME AND HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE TO MEET AND IGNORE CRAWFORD CASE. WE HAVE NO ITEMS OF PRESSING IMPORTANCE, OTHER THAN CRAWFORD'S RELEASE, TO RAISE WITH MFT AT THIS TIME. CERTAINLY WE WOULD NOT WISH TO IGNORE CRAWFORD AND TAKE UP ROUTINE MATTERS WHICH COULD LEAD SOVIETS TO CONCLUDE THAT WE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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PREPARED TO CONDUCT BUSINESS AS USUAL WHILE SWORD HANGS OVER HIS HEAD.

3. WE PROPOSE THEREFORE TO TAKE NO ACTION ABOUT MEETING. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THE SOVIETS WERE TO SUGGEST THE MEETING BE HELD, WE WOULD RESPOND THAT IN VIEW OF FORCIBLE ARREST AND DETENTION OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN IN GOOD STANDING AND OF THE PROSPECT THAT HE WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT MEETING AT THIS TIME WOULD BE PURPOSEFUL. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT PRESENT MEETING BE CANCELLED AND THAT WE MEET AGAIN IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER, ASSUMING THAT PROBLEM WILL HAVE BEEN SOLVED BY THAT TIME THROUGH DROPPING CHARGES AGAINST CRAWFORD.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENT OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES ON THIS PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION. TOON

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